Conspiracy Theory Is Further Deflated

MEMPHIS (UPI) — A former policeman whose name has figured in conspiracy theories in the assassination 10 years ago of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has stepped forward to apparently deflate some of those theories.

Ed Redditt, a patrolman April 4, 1968 when King was struck by a sniper's bullet, gave recent anti-conspiracy testimony to the House Assassinations Committee, a Memphis television station reported last night.

The black former officer confirmed to the committee that he was assigned to cover the Civil Rights leader, but in a surveillance role, not a security capacity.

Redditt was reportedly taken from the detail about two hours before King was killed, leading conspiracy theorists to believe his removal was deliberate to ease the shooting of King.

WMC-TV said in a copyrighted story that it learned of Redditt's closed testimony March 22 in a confidential memo.